

Washington, DC -- Congressman Vern Buchanan (R-FL 13) has urged the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) to reject the proposed consolidation of mail processing operations at the Manasota Processing and Distribution Center in Tallevast and keep the local jobs of an estimated 59 postal workers.

“Right now jobs and the economy are by far the most important issue,” wrote Buchanan in a letter to the Postal Service’s Vice President for Southeast Area Operations. “This region is among the hardest hit in the nation by record foreclosures and the rapid rise in unemployment. Therefore, I am very concerned about the 59 jobs that would be lost to my district under the proposed consolidation.”

Under the proposed consolidation, outgoing mail would be shipped to Tampa before being distributed in Manatee, Sarasota, and DeSoto counties. Affected workers would be transferred up to 500 miles from the local facility. Buchanan questioned the process through which the consolidation was proposed and noted the Postal Service’s refusal to show any data to support the claim that it would save money.

“The Manasota PDC has provided reliable service and good paying jobs to my constituents,” wrote the congressman. “I fail to see the efficiency in transporting the mail more than a hundred additional miles to Tampa and back before delivery to the local area. Furthermore, if no workers will be laid-off, where are the savings?”

“I urge the USPS to reject the proposed consolidation and keep the estimated 59 jobs in my district,” concluded Buchanan.